



AIMS UPDATE FOR TEST COORDINATORS

Superintendent Tom Horne

May 2007

#15

DUE DATES FOR SPRING 2007 TEST REPORTS

May 16, 2007	AIMS HS Math Rapid Response Reports
June 1, 2007	AIMS HS Math complete set of reports TerraNova reports for Grades 2 and 9
June 8, 2007	AIMS DPA complete set of reports

TESTING CALENDAR FOR FALL 2007

Aug. 6 – 31, 2007	Register for Mandatory Fall 2007 AIMS HS Pre-Test Workshop
Aug. 13 – 24, 2007	Online Ordering for Fall 2007 AIMS HS Test Materials
Aug. 15, 2007	Test Coordinator Info. Sheet Due
Sep. 20, 2007	Fall 2007 AIMS HS Pre-Test Workshop – Flagstaff (AM, PM)
Sep. 24, 2007	Fall 2007 AIMS HS Pre-Test Workshop – Tucson (PM)
Sep. 26, 2007	Fall 2007 AIMS HS Pre-Test Workshop – Phoenix (AM, PM)
Oct. 30, 2007	AIMS HS – Writing test see p. 2 for details about the timing of test
Oct. 31, 2007	AIMS HS – Reading test
Nov. 1, 2007	AIMS HS – Mathematics test

TESTING CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2008

AIMS HS

Feb. 26, 2008	AIMS HS – Writing test see p. 2 for details about the timing of test
Feb. 27, 2008	AIMS HS – Reading test
Mar. 4, 2008	AIMS HS – Writing test make-up see p. 2 for details about the timing of test
Mar. 5, 2008	AIMS HS – Reading test make-up
Apr. 8, 2008	AIMS HS – Mathematics test
Apr. 9, 2008	AIMS HS – Science test
Apr. 15, 2008	AIMS HS – Mathematics test make-up

AIMS DPA

Apr. 7 – 18, 2008	AIMS DPA See p. 2 for details about scheduling the AIMS DPA test during this window.
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TerraNova

Apr. 7 – 18, 2008	Schedule 2 days for Grade 2 Schedule 1 or 2 days for Grade 9
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THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR OF TESTING

We have come to the end of another successful year of testing. Thanks to all test coordinators for your attention to detail, your efforts to see that the tests were administered correctly, and the many long hours spent unpacking, counting, distributing, recounting, and repackaging test materials.

ERROR ON AIMS HS MATHEMATICS

An error was found in item #87 on the AIMS HS Mathematics test. CTB/McGraw-Hill revised the wording of the stem of the item without the approval of ADE. The reworded stem made the correct answer choice no longer entirely correct. This item has been excluded from the scoring of the test. The scaling of the AIMS HS Mathematics test will be based on 84 test items this year rather than 85. ADE has clarified the editing and approval procedures that CTB/McGraw-Hill is to follow so that such an error does not occur again.

An additional error was found on the Braille version of the AIMS HS Mathematics test. No answer choices were included for item #93. This item has been excluded from the scoring of the Braille test. The scaling of the Braille version of the AIMS HS Mathematics test will be based on 83 test items this year rather than 85. ADE, CTB/McGraw-Hill, and the Braille vendor are reviewing the proofreading procedures for Braille so that such an error does not occur again.

The ADE Assessment Section sincerely regrets these errors and apologizes for any distress these errors may have caused students who discovered them while testing.

WRITING SCORING CHANGES

The number of readers scoring the AIMS Writing responses has changed for Spring 2007. This year, each reader scored three traits.

For AIMS HS, a minimum of four readers independently scored each response with two readers scoring Ideas and Content, Organization, and Conventions and the other two readers scoring Voice, Word Choice, and Sentence Fluency.

For AIMS DPA, a minimum of two readers scored each response with one reader scoring Ideas and Content, Organization, and Conventions and the other reader scoring Voice, Word Choice, and Sentence Fluency.

ADE and CTB/McGraw-Hill are confident that this change in scoring procedure had no adverse effect on the quality of scoring. The training and qualifying of the readers was as rigorous as in previous years. ADE Assessment staff members monitored the training and the first days of scoring for both HS and DPA. Inter-rater reliability and the consistent scoring of the readers were monitored this year in the same manner as in previous years.

SPRING 2007 TEST REPORTS

The AIMS HS student reports, AIMS DPA student reports and longitudinal reports, and *TerraNova* home reports may be released to students and parents immediately upon their receipt.

2006-2007 AIMS FIELD TESTING

This school year included the most field testing, pilot testing, and linking testing we have done since 2003-2004. The Assessment Section thanks the thousands of students and hundreds of schools included in these ancillary tests. Their participation was vital to the further development of the AIMS testing program.

Writing and Science

Over 30,000 students at 209 schools participated in the AIMS HS Writing field test. Over 90,000 students at 251 schools participated in the AIMS DPA Writing field test. Over 37,000 students at 254 schools participated in the AIMS Science field test.

The writing prompts for Spring 2008 will be selected from the prompts field tested this year. The AIMS Science test items will be selected from the items field tested this year.

Online Pilot Test

ADE took the very first steps towards online testing this year. Over 5000 students at 47 schools participated in an online pilot test of the Grade 8 AIMS Science field test.

ADE is analyzing the outcome of this pilot test to determine whether test items perform differently when presented online versus when presented on paper. ADE is also using this pilot to help determine how prepared the state's schools are for online testing and what the next steps should be in moving towards more online testing.

Lexile

ADE has contracted with MetaMetrics to link AIMS Reading scores to Lexile measures. Over 8000 students at 43 schools participated in the Lexile linking study.

Later this summer, ADE will release conversion tables for converting an AIMS HS or AIMS DPA reading score to a Lexile measure. Next year, students' Lexile measures will be included on the AIMS test reports.

Look for additional guidance from the AZ READS unit regarding interpreting and using Lexile measures.

SUMMER 2007 AIMS HS TESTING

Again this summer, the Arizona Department of Education will be administering AIMS HS in various locations throughout the state for students who did not graduate in May due solely to the AIMS graduation requirement. Details regarding dates and times of tests, eligibility to participate in the summer test, and registration information can be found on the CD provided at the January pre-test workshop and can be found on the ADE website at:

www.azed.gov/standards/AIMS/Administering/Summer2007/.

TESTING INFORMATION FOR 2007-2008

The testing dates for the 2007-2008 school year and some of the other key event dates for Fall 2007 are on page one. The August edition of the AIMS Update will include all key event dates for August through December 2007 and dates for the Spring 2008 Pre-Test Workshops.

High schools that will not be in session on one or more of the 2007-2008 AIMS HS test dates are required to request permission to test on alternate test dates. This request should be made **prior** to the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. Such requests must be submitted to Irene Hunting, Director of State Test Administration, on official district/school letterhead by the superintendent or charter representative and must include a copy of the official 2007-2008 school calendar.

As in previous years, ADE expects high schools to establish a sign-up procedure for students who are retaking any AIMS HS test in an effort to earn an "Exceeds." Please communicate this sign-up procedure to parents. This notification may be included in a regular newsletter or mailing to parents.

Following are details regarding the scheduling of the AIMS HS Writing, AIMS DPA, and AIMS Science tests.

AIMS HS Writing

The timing of the administration of the AIMS HS Writing test will be greatly restricted beginning with the Fall 2007 administration of the test. Schools must schedule the administration of the AIMS HS Writing test for the morning of the test date. The administration of the test may not begin before 7:30 AM and must begin by 10:00 AM. Students may not be dismissed from the testing room prior to 10:00 AM. Students may not have access to any electronic devices, including cell phones, from the time they enter the testing room until dismissed. Students will not be permitted to start the test after 10:00 AM regardless of what time the student arrived at school or what time the student normally attends school.

These restrictions are a reaction to the growing number of high school students who have learned of the prompt prior to testing. The goal is not to complicate the test schedule for schools and districts but rather to provide a fair test for all high school students.

AIMS DPA Scheduling

The restrictions regarding the scheduling of AIMS DPA are the same for Spring 2008 as they were this year.

- All schools within the same district or charter must schedule testing for the exact same dates. These dates are to be reported on the Test Coordinator Information Sheet.
- Day 1 of testing (Writing) must be scheduled no later than April 9.
- Days 2, 3, and 4 of testing (Reading and Mathematics) must follow in order but not necessarily on consecutive days.
- Day 4 of testing must be scheduled no later than April 16.
- Make-up testing is to be scheduled as needed, but all make-up testing must be completed by April 18.

AIMS Science

Spring 2008 will be the first operational administration of the AIMS Science tests. How AIMS Science will be included in AYP or AZ LEARNS calculations is yet to be determined. Students in Grade 4, Grade 8, or in high school will participate in AIMS Science testing as described below.

Grade 4 and Grade 8

Students in Grade 4 and students in Grade 8 will participate in AIMS Science testing. The only students exempted from this test are those who participate in AIMS-A testing.

For Grade 4 and Grade 8, the AIMS Science test will be administered as Day 5 of the AIMS DPA test. Day 5 is to be scheduled after Day 4 but no later than April 17. All schools within a district or charter must schedule Day 5 on the same date.

For Grade 4 and Grade 8, the AIMS Science test book will be separate from the AIMS DPA test book, and the AIMS Science answer document will be separate from the AIMS DPA answer document. The directions for administering the AIMS Science tests will be included in the AIMS DPA Test Administration Directions manual.

High School

The AIMS HS Science test is a life sciences test designed for tenth grade students. However, ninth grade students who are enrolled in a life sciences course may participate in the AIMS HS Science test. The AIMS HS Science test is not a high stakes test. This means that students are not required to pass the AIMS HS Science test in order to graduate from high school. So, high school students will take the AIMS HS Science test no more than once, either during their first year of high school or during their second year of high school.

In Spring 2008, all cohort 11 students (generally ninth graders) who are enrolled in a life science course and all cohort 10 students (generally tenth graders) who are enrolled in a life science course will participate in the AIMS HS Science test. AIMS HS Science will be administered on Wednesday, April 9th only. There is no make-up date scheduled for Spring 2008.

In Spring 2009, the population of high school students testing on AIMS HS Science will change slightly. For Spring 2009, all cohort 12 students (generally ninth graders) who are enrolled in a life science course and all cohort 11 students (generally tenth graders) who did not test on AIMS HS Science during Spring 2008, will participate in the AIMS HS Science test. For students in cohort 11, it will not matter whether or not they are enrolled in a life-science course. If they do not have an AIMS HS Science score from Spring 2008, they will test on AIMS HS Science in Spring 2009.

For AIMS HS Science test administration beyond 2009, this pattern will continue. The students in the cohort that would normally be considered ninth graders will test on AIMS HS Science if enrolled in a life science course. The students in the cohort that would normally be considered tenth grade will test on AIMS HS Science if they do not have an AIMS HS science score from the previous year regardless of their being enrolled in a life science course or not.

A GOODBYE

Samantha Whittle is leaving ADE for other employment in education that will allow her more time to be with her family. We wish her well in her new position.

TEST COORDINATOR INFORMATION SHEET

State Board of Education rule R7-2-310 identifies the superintendent or head of district as the person in charge of testing within the district. Per this rule, the superintendent may designate a testing coordinator to act on his/her behalf.

A Test Coordinator Information Sheet for 2007-2008 is attached. Every district and charter is expected to submit a new test coordinator information sheet every year even if the superintendent is assuming the role of test coordinator and even if the test coordinator information remains the same from year to year.

The due date for the Test Coordinator Information Sheet for 2007-2008 is August 15, 2007. Districts and charters with students who may be participating in Summer AIMS are encouraged to submit their Test Coordinator Information Sheet prior to June 1, 2007. The district test coordinator will be responsible for overseeing Summer AIMS registration and will be receiving the Summer AIMS results directly from ADE.

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADE Assessment Section

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Fax: (602) 542-5467

Roberta Alley, Deputy Associate Superintendent

Telephone: (602) 364-1164

Email: Roberta.Alley@azed.gov

Irene Hunting, Director of State Test Administration

Telephone: (602) 542-5450

Email: Irene.Hunting@azed.gov

To add your name to the Test Coordinator's email list or for questions regarding testing, contact Irene Hunting.

Test Coordinator Webpage:

www.azed.gov/standards/AIMS/Administering

CTB/McGraw-Hill

Arizona Help Desk

Telephone: (888) 630-9145

FAX: (888) 282-0266

Email: ArizonaHelpDesk@ctb.com

Michelle Paregian, Program Office Coordinator

Telephone: (800) 538-9547 ext 6693

Email: Michelle.Paregian@ctb.com

Regarding the purchase of CTB products contact:

Kelly Powell, Evaluation Consultant

Telephone: (602) 885-1907

Email: Kelly.Powell@ctb.com

Test Coordinator Information Sheet

School Year 2007-2008

State Board of Education Rule R7-2-310 allows the superintendent or head of district to designate a test coordinator to act on his/her behalf. If no test coordinator is designated, the superintendent or head of district will serve as the test coordinator.

The person named on this information sheet will serve as the test coordinator for all schools within the district or for all schools operated under the same charter and is expected to serve in this role for the entire school year. This person will be referred to as the "district test coordinator" even if serving as coordinator for a charter operator. District test coordinators are required to attend a Pre-Test Workshop in January. If high school is included in the district or charter, then the district test coordinator is also required to attend a Pre-Test Workshop in September. If the district test coordinator, as designated on this sheet, is unable to attend a Pre-Test Workshop, the only acceptable substitute is the district superintendent or charter representative.

Name of District or Charter:

_____ District entity # _____

Name of Superintendent or Charter Representative:

Name of District/Charter Operator Test Coordinator:

Mailing address:

Shipping address for test materials (no P.O. Boxes):

Phone number(s) for Test Coordinator:

E-mail address(es) for Test Coordinator:

Identify the Spring 2008 dates for the administration of AIMS DPA:

Day 1: _____ Day 2: _____ Day 3: _____ Day 4: _____ Day 5: _____

I certify that the person named above is authorized to act on my behalf as district test coordinator. I understand, and the person designated above understands, that one of the responsibilities of the district test coordinator is attendance at the Pre-Test Workshops. If the person designated above is unable to attend a Pre-Test Workshop, I will attend in his/her place.

Superintendent/Charter Representative Signature _____

Submit to: Arizona Department of Education
Assessment Section
1535 W. Jefferson St, Bin 6
Phoenix, AZ 85007
FAX: 602.542.5467

Due Date: **August 15, 2007**